



Department of State

P750008-0901

TELEGRAM

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, U.S., IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQ'S RELATIONS WITH WEST AFTER ABORTIVE COUP

REFERENCE: BAGHDAD 394 (NOTAL)

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES YOUR SUGGESTION PER REPTEL THAT
USM SEEA TO TAKE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED AFTER ABORTIVE
COUP ATTEMPT TO FOSTER BETTER U.S./IRAQI RELATIONS. RECENT
INTERVIEW GRANTED TO WESTERN JOURNALISTS BY REVOLUTIONARY

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DE-1432

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR	
REVIEWED BY <i>R.L.J.</i>	DATE <i>4/30/86</i>
<i>Classified</i>	<i>Extended</i>
REC'D BY <i>J. Burice</i>	REASON(S) <i>CDL Memo</i>
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS. ☐	<i>5/13/83</i>
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☐	
ALL INFORMATION DENIED ☒ IN PART	
PA - 11 EXEMPTIONS	<i>BIA5</i>

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COMMAND COUNCIL (RCC) VICE PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSSEIN, IN WHICH HE STATES THAT IRAQ WOULD WELCOME BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE WEST AND SPECIFICALLY WITH US, IS SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC INDICATION OF IRAQI WILLINGNESS TO KEEP DOORS OPEN TO IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONS. HUSSEIN'S ARTICLE RECEIVED PROMINENT PRESS PLAY IN NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST JULY 18 EDITIONS AND HAS BEEN INTERPRETED BY PRESS AS INDICATION OF OPENING TOWARD THE WEST BY IRAQ'S LEADERSHIP (SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW FOLLOWS SEPTEL).

2. HOWEVER, WE THINK IT IS TOO EARLY TO DETERMINE EXACTLY WHAT CHANGES AND POLITICAL ORIENTATION, IF ANY, IRAQI REGIME WILL ADOPT IN AFTERMATH OF COUP ATTEMPT. GIVEN THE IN-FIGHTING OF THE RULING BAIATH PARTY OF IRAQ (BPS) AND THE POLITICAL ANTAGONISMS WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED TO PREVAIL AS A RESULT OF THE ABORTIVE COUP,

3. HOWEVER, WE DO SEE MERIT IN SENDING A CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY TO IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER ABD AL-BAQI ON OCCASION NATIONAL DAYS CELEBRATIONS BETWEEN JULY 14 AND JULY 17 (MESSAGE CONTAINED SEPTEL). MESSAGES HAVE BEEN EXCHANGED BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER ON 110 AL ADNA AND THIS LEVEL OF EXCHANGE WOULD BOTH BE IN LINE WITH RELATIONS WE ENJOY WITH GOI AT THIS TIME AND CONSTITUTE MODEST NEW SIGNAL OF INTEREST.

4. IN LAST ANALYSIS, WE THINK WE SHOULD CONTINUE FOR NOW TO CONCENTRATE ON IMPROVING OUR RELATIONS AT THE ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND CULTURAL LEVELS WHERE GRADUAL BUT TANGIBLE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. OUR BASIC POSITION IS THAT WE WOULD WELCOME AN IMPROVEMENT IN OUR

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RELATIONS WITH IRAQ AND WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME THE RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH SEVERED RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AFTER THE JUNE 1967 WAR.

5. WE ARE CONSIDERING WHAT FURTHER SIGNALS WE MIGHT GIVE RESPONSIVE TO SADDAM HUSSEIN INTERVIEW AND WOULD WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS AS WELL AS THOSE OF INFO ADDRESSEES AS APPROPRIATE. RUSH

SYSTEM
SUGGEST REVIEW

Gen. K. - Caption removed;
transmitted to ONTARIO

Gen. E. - Transmitted to ONTARIO
with additional access
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Gen. C. - Caption removed;
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Reviewed by: _____

Date: _____

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